

## WHY ALL THE FUSS ABOUT WETLANDS?

You may not realize it, but wetlands provide many benefits to you and your family. A few of these benefits include:

- Purifying the water you drink;
- Reducing flooding;
- Providing critical fish and wildlife habitat;
- Protecting shorelines from erosion caused by wave action; and
- Providing recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, canoeing, and wildlife watching.



Great blue heron

## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY LAND HAS WETLANDS OR NOT?

You can't always judge a book by its cover! An area can be a wetland and not look like one because wetlands aren't always wet year-round.

To be a wetland, an area has to:

1. Be wet, at least part of the year (either at or above the ground level);
2. Support the growth of wetland plants (plants that thrive in or near water);
3. Have a certain type of soil (certain soils are known indicators of wetland conditions).



Yellow warbler

If you need to know if you have wetlands on your property, or where the boundaries are, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (see contact information inside brochure). The Corps has staff people trained to identify and map out the wetlands that are protected by the Clean Water Act. For more information about wetland identification, visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers web site at: [www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/techbio.htm](http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/techbio.htm).

## DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

An Indiana landowner's guide to state and federal permits needed for work in or along lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and wetlands.



## CLEAN WATER REGULATIONS BENEFIT YOUR FAMILY AS WELL AS SOCIETY

All humans have the basic need for clean water to drink, and people also want clean water for recreation, such as swimming, boating, and fishing. State and federal regulations play a critical role in making sure that the waters of Indiana are clean and safe for all Hoosiers to use and enjoy.



DNR photographer Richard Fields

## THAT WAS THEN...



Before clean water laws were enacted, anyone could dump anything in our waters, and many people did just that. This made some of our waters so polluted that nothing could live in them. They were unsafe to swim in or even touch and were filled with trash and toxic chemicals. They even smelled bad!

## THIS IS NOW...



Today, most landowners understand the importance of preserving our water quality. The regulations set the standard levels of protection that must be achieved to sustain clean water into the future. The regulations also ensure that all landowners meet the same standards to keep the playing field level for everyone.

## IDEM CAN HELP!

If you're planning to work in or around wetlands, lakes, rivers, ponds, or streams, you probably need one or more permits. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management will help you:

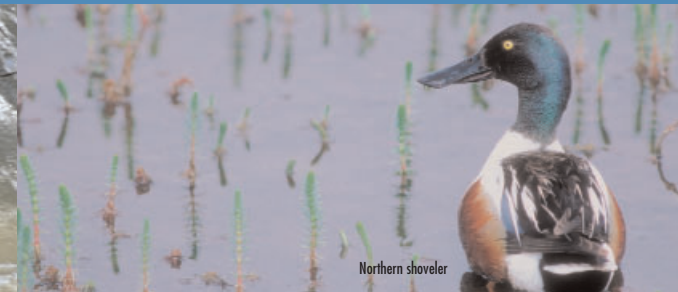
- determine which (if any) permits you may need;
- navigate the permitting process so you can comply with the law and avoid project delays;
- contact the right people if you need more information or help.

This brochure is a good place to start!



# When Do I Need a Permit?

The agencies that administer water regulations have the final authority to decide which activities require permits, but this table shows some of the common activities that will likely require permits, along with descriptions of the permits needed and who to contact for more information. To learn more about every aspect of the permitting process, visit IDEM's web site ([www.state.in.us/idem/owm/planbr/401/401home.html](http://www.state.in.us/idem/owm/planbr/401/401home.html)) or call 317-233-8488 or 800-451-6027, ext. 3-8488.



## Activities that may Require Permits

The activities listed below may require one or more permits from one or more regulatory agencies. Contact the agencies listed to the right for more information.

### Filling

(placement of dredged or fill material into a water body\*)

### Dredging

(removal of silt or sediment from a water body\*)

### Excavating

(activities on shore that impact water bodies\*- for example, stream widening, channel relocation, or sand and gravel mining)

### Other Construction

Projects that involve building or maintenance activities within the floodway of a river, stream, or adjacent wetland.

Projects that alter the shoreline or lakebed of a public freshwater lake (seawalls, beaches, etc.).

*\*Water bodies include wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, or rivers (even on private property).*

## Types of Permits that may be Needed

### Federal

Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act

Section 404, Clean Water Act

### State

Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Clean Water Act (You must have this certification before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may issue a Section 404 Permit.)

Construction in a Floodway Permit, Indiana Flood Control Act

Shoreline or Lakebed Alteration Permit, Indiana Lake Preservation Act

Ditch Reconstruction Permit, Indiana Lowering of Ten Acre Lakes Act

Navigable Waterways Permit, Indiana Navigable Waterways Act

Sand and Gravel Permit, Indiana Sand and Gravel Permits Act

Access Channel Permit, Indiana Construction of Channels Act

## Who to Contact

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

For central and southern Indiana:

Louisville District • P.O. Box 59 • Louisville, KY 40201-0059  
502-315-6733

For northern Indiana:

Detroit District • P.O. Box 1027 • Detroit, MI 48231-1027  
313-226-2218

### Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Management

Section 401 Water Quality

P.O. Box 6015 • Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015

800-451-6027, ext. 3-8488 (within Indiana) • 317-233-8488

### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Water

402 W. Washington St., Rm. W264 • Indianapolis, IN 46204

317-232-4160 • 877-WATER55 (toll free)

[www.ai.org/dnr/water](http://www.ai.org/dnr/water)

**NOTE:** Be sure to contact each agency to verify which, if any, permits you need for your project.



### Office of Water Management

317-233-8488 or 800-451-6027

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